

Local Boundary Commission

From: "Doug Vollman" <vollman@cvinternet.net>
To: <LBC@dced.state.ak.us>
Sent: Thursday, February 06, 2003 10:01 AM
Subject: mandatory boroughs

To whom it may concern, All this talk of borough formation in the Copper Valley has been ongoing for many years. The reasoning behind boroughs seems to be economically motivated with some mention of self-government. First of all in the Copper Valley there can never be true self government because of the large amount of federal lands and Native holdings. It seems to me that a recent study of property values in our region has been grossly inaccurate. Your study shows the average valuation of our homes at \$141,000, while many of us live without sewer and water in homes that cannot even be insured. The argument by urban legislators is that we aren't paying for our school. Perhaps we need an equitable school tax. But do we really need another layer of government? The pipeline, though it has been depreciated well below its true worth, still brings to the state enough money to pay for education. Much of the money spent in our area comes from the federal government. Because of our depressed economic situation, the diversity of our communities and the vast area that could never be equitably served by a new layer of government, a borough is totally unrealistic. The political ideology of "less government" put forth by most of our seated politicians obviously is a blatant lie. Many of us residents of the Copper Valley asked for very little from the state: just a few roads, schools and troopers. At this point, those three services have been underfunded. I believe it would cost more to assess our properties than we could bring in. Seasonally, many urban residents harvest resources from our area but contribute very little. Should we put up toll booths to charge dipnetters and hunters? No, we are all Alaskans and there is enough revenue in the state to pay for all our needs. We spend millions of dollars on studies, commissions, and consultants but fail to come to any realistic decisions. Please do not make the mistake of forcing a useless layer of government and thus a drain on the state economy upon the rural residents of the state. Thank You,

Sincerely,

Doug Vollman
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